

Daily Phone call check in -Ontario Law Organizations - March 17, 2020
Summary

Present on call

Elizabeth Hall, OBA

Mohan Sharma, OBA

Vicki White, Advocates' Society

Kathleen Murphy, LAO

Jacob Bakan, Court of Appeal for Ontario

Lori Newton, Ontario Court of Justice

Geoffrey B. Morawetz, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice in Ontario

Absent

Irwin Glasberg, Deputy AG (Invited)

Ministers Offices (MAG)

Issues discussed:

1. Notices from the Courts

These have been put together rather hastily and if any notices are missing key information, they would like to know. Please don't hesitate to email.

2. Courthouse issues

The Courts are not quite yet ready to deliver the 100 phone lines needed for teleconferencing - using OBA lines for now

Not all trial coordinators have full remote access - Courts are working on this and all are getting ZOOM training. Using OBA ZOOM accounts right now

3. Compliance Issues - LSO

There are many concerns right now - mostly regarding real estate. For now, if an Affidavit cannot be witnessed, lawyers are STRONGLY encouraged to ensure their client is available via phone when the matter is discussed before the courts. They will be required to be affirmed over the phone (however, no decision has been finalized yet on this). This is a challenge because judges cannot be "ordered" what to do in their courts.

4. Family Law and Self Reps

Self reps need advice from a lawyer to determine the urgency of their matter. FOLA, the LSO, the Advocates Society, LAO, and the OBA are going to be working on a roll out strategy regarding that would combine lawyer referral services. The OBA will provide a number where a self rep can be referred to a lawyer who can then review the matter (pro bono) to let them know if their matter is likely to be deemed "urgent". As this may differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, the OBA will be calling on FOLA, the LSO, the Advocates' Society, and the LAO to help recruit lawyers to staff these lines. Basically, we will be looking to create an "army of family law lawyers. The LSO would work to message this out to the public via their public web section. Courts to also message out this service.

5. DROs and Child Custody Matters

DROs are closed and the OBA is working on a way to help this situation.

6. Accommodations for media

ZOOM Webinar rooms are being explored/set up to accommodate the media. This is being done with the help of the OBA

7.